news

Dun & Bradstreet

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Business Economics Division

99 CHURCH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007
(212) 285-7417

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Building
Permits

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BUILDING PERMITS IN 200 LARGEST CITIES SUBSIDE FROM RECORD PACE

NEW YORK, April 16--Building permit activity in the nation's 200 largest cities subsided in November after setting a new record in the previous month, reports Dun & Bradstreet. November's total was $2,736,073,957 or 16.6 per cent less than the peak $3,281,845,380 set in October. November's volume nonetheless exceeded its like year-ago level of $2,495,786,359 by 9.6 per cent.

The 199 cities outside New York had a 17 per cent slowdown in permits volume from October's relatively high $3,177,189,930 to $2,637,099,536 in November. Valuations during November 1980 subsided markedly in Chicago following a huge hike in October. Yet, some cities did chalk up sizeable gains between October and November. Among them were Dallas (with a jump of more than $100 million), Pittsburgh (up by $88 million), Cleveland, Shreveport, Brooklyn, Lansing, Omaha, and Spokane. Compared with November 1979's $2,153,806,564 tally, issuances in the 199 cities maintained a solid 22.4 per cent advance, the best year-to year headway in eleven months.

Plans filed by New York City builders slipped 5.4 per cent in November to $98,974,421, from $104,655,450 one month earlier. However, filings in New York showed an even sharper decline from their November 1979 reading of $341,979,795 which had marked the city's highest dollar amount in eleven years.

During the first eleven months of 1980, permits issued builders totalled $29,042,166,316 in the 200 cities. This was 4.4 per cent above the $27,831,029,638 recorded in the like period in 1979. Houston and Los Angeles each had valuations in excess of $2 billion for this eleven-month span in 1980, far ahead of any of the other cities.

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2. NOVEMBER BUILDING PERMIT VALUES

MONTHLY TOTAL OF BUILDING PERMITS IN 200 LARGEST CITIES

	1980	1979	1978	1977
January.....	$ 2,239,448,528	$ 1,746,778,126	$1,555,200,317	$ 1,155,317,475
February.....	2,425,794,216	1,717,789,184	1,566,122,444	1,346,506,159
March.....	2,652,435,406	2,476,939,618	2,181,040,038	1,831,077,441
April.....	2,456,791,560	2,451,179,009	1,970,502,609	1,670,684,353
May.....	2,315,891,724	2,777,967,467	2,184,409,484	1,848,109,958
June.....	2,455,281,668	2,773,160,539	3,175,380,926	2,112,508,861
July.....	2,954,515,163	2,680,322,050	2,374,622,719	1,786,583,619
August.....	2,580,497,908	2,986,549,135	2,096,290,105	1,983,733,131
September....	2,943,590,806	2,825,024,489	2,197,718,509	1,720,913,053
October.....	3,281,845,380	2,899,533,662	2,305,383,414	1,802,807,510
November.....	2,736,073,957	2,495,786,359	2,050,242,106	1,827,177,094
December.....		2,184,572,996	1,809,134,416	1,908,713,368
TOTAL.....		$30,015,602,634	$25,466,047,087	$20,994,132,022

Of the 200 cities included in this series the twenty-five with the largest building permit values for the first eleven months of 1980 were:

		(Millions of Dollars) Eleven Months 1980	% Change Eleven Months 1979
1.	Houston, Texas.....	2046.3	+ 3.5
2.	Los Angeles, California.....	2000.8	+ 33.4
3.	New York, New York.....	1066.1	+ 0.3
4.	Dallas, Texas.....	989.0	+ 8.6
5.	Chicago, Illinois.....	779.3	+ 10.2
6.	Phoenix, Arizona.....	638.3	+ 1.8
7.	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania...	603.7	+ 89.7
8.	Honolulu, Hawaii.....	540.3	+ 10.2
9.	San Diego, California.....	531.3	- 20.4
10.	Seattle, Washington.....	514.8	+ 14.1
11.	Austin, Texas.....	454.9	+ 8.7
12.	San Francisco, California....	447.3	- 24.6
13.	Atlanta, Georgia.....	445.4	+ 14.9
14.	Fort Worth, Texas.....	404.1	+ 27.9
15.	Tulsa, Oklahoma.....	402.8	+ 53.4
16.	Washington, D. C.....	380.4	+ 42.3
17.	San Jose, California.....	373.8	- 11.8
18.	San Antonio, Texas.....	370.4	+ 9.7
19.	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.....	341.6	+ 13.2
20.	Indianapolis, Indiana.....	332.6	+ 12.0
21.	Detroit, Michigan.....	327.5	+ 77.0
22.	Columbus, Ohio.....	311.8	- 9.7
23.	Memphis, Tennessee.....	305.0	+ 55.3
24.	Denver, Colorado.....	290.3	- 4.0
25.	Portland, Oregon.....	249.3	+ 14.8

TOTAL: 200 LARGEST CITIES Listed Above.....	$ 2,736,871,957	$ 29,042,166,119	$ 27,831,029,618	

P = Preliminary

R = Revised